

shall reap the reward of their labours.

"Wherefore, it is our wish that all who, in the province under your care and in the Catholic Church over which Csecilianus presides, minister to this most holy religion—those, viz., whom people are wont to call the clergy—shall be absolved* from all public duties of any kind, lest, by some slip or grave mischance, they may be distracted from the duties they owe to the Supreme Divinity, and that they may do the better service to their own ritual without any disturbing influences.

" Inasmuch as these people display the deepest reverence for the Divine Will, it seems to me that they ought to receive the greatest reward the State can bestow."

These are two remarkable letters. They clearly prove that the schism in the African Church was making a stir outside Africa, and that the Emperor had been instructed in the main points at issue. The new convert had cast his all-powerful influence upon the Catholic side—an Emperor would naturally be biased against schism—and he was prepared to utilise the civil power in order to compel the return of the schismatics to obedience. So little observant was he of his own edict of toleration that he was prepared to use force to secure uniformity within the Church! Constantino, indeed, reveals himself not merely as a Christian, but as a Catholic Christian ; his bounty is reserved for the Catholic clergy, and the immunity from public duties involving heavy expense is reserved similarly for them alone.

* *Ali omnibus omnino publicis functionibus immunitas
voluntarius con-servari.*